

Tityrus and Mopsus

Translated by Craig Thomas

Tityrus:

Since we both alike have met to sing among
The hazels here, closely packed and shadow-topped,
Let's speak in praise of heroes, Mopsus, like we do;
The hours will pass by happy as we sing — come on,
Reveal who you will pick to honour in our song.

Mopsus:

That solemn gift of praise — let it be given to
The ones who gave us, Tityr, all this time and peace.
I mean, let's have the forest echo hymns for those
Who thought this kingdom's ruins worthy of support.

Tityrus:

Such lofty stuff won't suit the humble, slender pipe!
But since, they say, the thought's what counts in grand affairs,
I'll also sing your praises, William — Mary's, too:
What love has joined together, no man should tear in two.